

Plainfield PAL Karate Team wins big

YES Page 5

Great Savings!! See Coupons

INSERT

Health Chief Releases Minority Health Report, Announces Grants

TRENTON—Twenty community organizations across New Jersey will share \$300,000 in grants to improve the health of African-American, Latinos and other minorities.

Health Commissioner Bruce Siegel announced recently. He also released the state's first comprehensive report on minority health.

Dr. Siegel announced the grant awards and released the report, "Closing the Gap: Improving the Health of New Jersey's Minority Populations," at a press conference held at Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church in Trenton.

"The minority health report... says that more innovative health education strategies are needed if we are to improve the health of minorities," Commissioner Siegel added.

"These grant programs are an important first step in carrying out that recommendation."

Most of the grant-funded projects focus on wellness and disease pre-

vention through health screening and education. The \$300,000 in grants is federal money earmarked for health promotion in order to help meet national Year 2000 health objectives.

"One of the key themes of the minority health report is the need for African-Americans, Latinos and others to have greater access to health care," said Rosalind Thigpen-Rodd, director of the Office of Minority Health, which was created by executive order in 1990 and signed into law by Governor Florio in 1992. Part of the focus of the office is to develop strategies to improve the health of minorities in New Jersey.

There are significant differences between the overall health of racial/ethnic minority and non-minority populations, the "Closing the Gap" report points out in its Health Data Profile section.

Minorities have a shorter life span — by five to seven years — than do

(continued on page 8)

CITY NEWS

THE NEW JOURNAL OF CIVILIZATION



In "L.A. is Burning," airing Tuesday, April 27, at 9 p.m. (check local listings), "Frontline" revisits Los Angeles to explore the how well we understand what happened there — and why — through the eyes of five people who have thought and written about the city from the perspectives of its different communities, races, and classes.

Reaction to the verdict

Opinion Page 4

Black Women's History Conference

Page 2

'L.A. is Burning'

Will it happen again?

'Frontline' examines the issues

BOSTON—One year after Los Angeles' three days and nights of beatings, looting, and burning, how well do we understand what happened there — and why?

In "L.A. is Burning," airing Tuesday, April 27, at 9 p.m. (check local listings), "Frontline" revisits Los Angeles to explore those questions through the eyes of five people who have thought and written about the city from the perspectives of its different communities, races, and classes.

Tracing the chronology of events from the moment the Rodney King verdict was announced, through the next seventy-two hours of rampage and deaths, to present day L.A., this examination of what happened becomes a larger essay on why L.A. is a warning signal.

"What happened here was about two things — one of which Americans don't want to deal with and one which they refuse to recognize," says Tim Rutten, an editorial writer for the "Los Angeles Times." "The thing they don't want to deal with is race. The thing they refuse to recognize is the issue of class."

Drawing on never-before-seen home videos and access to people at the center of the events, this report follows Rutten, along with essayist and novelist John Edgar Wideman, poet and reporter Ruben Martinez, journalist and community activist Susan Anderson, and Edw and Chang, a professor of ethnic studies and a member of L.A.'s Black-Korean Alliance. Each take their own individual journeys through L.A., examining the untold stories and misconceptions about what happened and how the "truth" of this disaster lies in the eyes of the beholder.

Ruben Martinez was on the streets during the rampage. "This particular riot was a combination of political rage and a strange kind of euphoria that one has when there is no law and order left," says Martinez.

He reports that while some elements of the riots were spontaneous, others were planned. For example, even before the Rodney King verdict came down, community activists were training thousands of volunteers in preparation for controlling reactions — but they were shut out by the LAPD.

"On the 28th [of April], some high-level officers from LAPD advised the volunteers that it wouldn't be wise for them to be out in the street and carry out the plan," says Charles Norman of the Community Youth Gang Services. "If anything, it would have been a police matter. That ended those two weeks of planning."

In contrast, a wing of the Revolutionary Communist Party USA successfully planned and carried out demonstrations at Parker Center police headquarters — a major flashpoint in the riots — following the verdict.

"They would grab a bullhorn and say, 'Let's go to the L.A. Times'... Let's

(continued on page 7)

Payne, "Common Sense" Award recipient

WASHINGTON, DC—Congressman Donald Payne was presented with the "Common Sense" Award by representatives from the Citizens' Federal Budget Campaign of NJ at a ceremony last week.

The Common Sense Award recognizes Congressman Payne's vote for the "Common Sense Budget," an alternative federal budget offered by the Congressional Black Caucus. The Congressional Black Caucus has been offering alternative budgets since 1981.

"I believe that our work has made an impact on the budget process by raising important questions and offering 'common sense' solutions," says Payne. The Common Sense Budget received 85 votes during the Congressional budget process this past March. Congressman Payne was the only member of the New Jersey delegation to vote in favor of the Budget and he says that he is proud to have supported it again this year and to have some input in shaping it.

"The good news this year is that we finally have in the White House a President who is willing to listen to our concerns about the need to re-order our budget priorities," says Payne. "I have had the opportunity on a number of occasions already to express my views to both President Clinton and to the First Lady, Hillary Clinton. Although I would like to have seen deeper cuts in military spending than the president proposed, I do feel that his budget moves in the right direction in recognizing the importance of investing in human potential."

The Common Sense Budget shifts resources from unnecessary military spending programs to much needed domestic investment and economic conversion programs, significantly addressing the needs of our urban communities. The budget Congress approved generally incorporated President Clinton's spending plan, cutting defense spending by about \$263 billion in budget authority. By contrast, the Common Sense Budget would reduce military spending by \$251 billion.

According to Payne, the Common Sense Budget would have allocated more funding for crucial domestic needs than the budget that was approved — \$4.8 billion more in FY 1994 for education, training, and social service programs, including more funding for training and employment programs; \$4.5 billion more for health program funding; higher funding for drug abuse and prevention programs; \$1.5 billion more for housing credit programs; \$1 billion more for natural resources and environmental programs; and \$988 million more for administration of justice programs, including additional funding for Community Policing Initiatives.

Payne says that the Common Sense Budget would also have presented an alternative on the revenue side: removing the energy tax and the increase in the portion of social security benefits that are taxable. In place of these revenue-raising measures, the plan would have increased the top corporate income tax rate from 31% to 38%; imposed a 5% surcharge on the top 10% of corporate earners; and increased the top income tax rate on capital gains from 28% to 31%.

"Those of us in Congress who supported the Common Sense Budget have a vision of America, a vision which you share with us," says Payne. "In an era of improving international relations, we would like to see our own nation unite in a spirit of hope for a brighter future for all Americans. For too many years, we neglected the basics: we siphoned valuable resources away from human investment and into military hardware."

"Now, it is time to come together to rebuild America — to rebuild our cities, to properly educate our children; to create sound jobs; to see that no American is forced to live in poverty or homelessness; to eradicate the despair which too often leads to drug and alcohol abuse, violent crime and the mistreatment of children."

Honor Malcolm X through unity, study and action

by Lawrence Hamm

African-Americans throughout the United States are planning observances that will take place during May to honor one of the foremost proponents of Black liberation in this century, Malcolm X (El Hajj Malik El Shabazz). These events will take many forms and will probably be more numerous than in previous years due to the resurgence in popularity of this revolutionary leader.

As we prepare these commemorative activities, it is important that we

remember that he was a freedom fighter, an uncompromising and militant opponent of the racist oppression and exploitation of our people. This is one of the reasons why his memory has remained so powerful among Black people, and has become so important to our youth.

The programs being planned should reflect his legacy of struggle, otherwise we do both our communities and his memory a disservice. We must be on guard against efforts to depoliticize and trivialize his message.

Malcolm is not simply a historical figure; he has become a symbol of

resistance. Each tribute held in his honor is an opportunity for us not only to examine his ideas, contributions and achievements, but also to unify and work collectively to advance our struggle.

During these celebrations, the need for unity among black people should be emphasized. Malcolm often spoke about this. He said that we should focus on what we have in common. Of course, this must include our African ancestry and shared historical experience. It was Malcolm who inspired many of us to be proud of our African identity, heritage and achievements as a people.

However, he also stated that what binds us together is our common oppression. Twenty-eight years ago he said the masses of black people were catching fire. This statement rings as true today as it did in 1965. Moreover, realizing that we have a common problem dictates that we unify, organize and find a common solution.

This period of observances must be a time not only for coming together, but also for serious reflection and study. We should not only listen to what people have to say about him, but also read what he said himself and urge

(continued on page 6)

Black Expo USA returns to Javits Center

Fifth Anniversary Tour expected to draw more than 100,000 African Americans

NEW YORK—Black Expo USA, sponsored by Coca-Cola USA, will return to the Jacob Javits Center for an unparalleled four consecutive days.

From Friday, April 23 through Monday, April 26, Black Expo USA, the largest national traveling trade show of its kind, will return to the city where it first started five years ago. More than 100,000 African Americans are expected to fill exhibit hall 3B specifically for the purpose of recycling dollars within the black community.

According to Jerry Roebuck, founder and chairman, "Black Expo USA is designed to afford minority businesses an opportunity to begeth awareness, gain increased market share and broaden their distribution channels."

It was in 1988 when Roebuck, first opened the doors to African-American consumers and entrepreneurs, attracting close to 40,000 people. Since then African-American entrepreneurs have been showcasing their businesses and services across the country to potential customers at Black Expo USA.

In 1991 Cross Colours, a multi-

million dollar apparel company, gained broader retail distribution by exhibiting at Black Expo. According to Carl Jones, co-founder and owner of Cross Colours, "They helped us reach a larger consumer base."

Samir Muhammad, president of Champy's Clips, a Philadelphia-based food manufacturer who recently signed a distribution contract with Eleven stores on the east coast, credits Black Expo USA for "playing a major role in our success."

This year several other entrepreneurs will reap the benefits of forming a national alliance with Black Expo USA. New York's own Chris Martin, better known as "Play" (one half of the successful rap duo Kid 'n Play), is president of IV Pla, a line of designer leather and casual wear fashions.

Olme Toys, Inc. and Home Land Fabrics, which is the largest importer of African textiles, are two New York based companies that recognize and respond to African-Americans' need for ethnically-correct dolls and authentic fabrics.

Highlights for this year's Black Expo will include a "Breakthrough" Designer Showcase, sponsored by



Jerry Roebuck, founder and chairman, "Black Expo USA"

Maybelline Shades of You Color Cosmetics, scheduled for Friday,

April 23. The showcase will feature celebrity models wearing fashions by local designers. Partial proceeds from the fashion showcase will benefit the United Negro College Fund.

In addition, Chemical Bank will sponsor a Black Investors Exhibit, displaying world renowned inventions like the traffic light and the folding chair. Black Expo USA will cover the cost of students from area high schools to visit the exhibit on Friday and Monday.

Throughout the weekend, there will be live entertainment by what well known artists as MCA Records' Jacqui McGhee and Motown recording artist Millie. There will also be seminars on topics covering the dynamics of starting your own business, the music business and real estate.

The doors are open to the public from 1 to 10 p.m. on Friday, April 23; 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, April 24 and Sunday, April 25; and 2 to 9 p.m. on Monday, April 26. General admission prices are \$6 on Monday and Friday; \$7 on Saturday and Sunday; \$3 for children under eight; and \$12 for the "Breakthrough" Designer Showcase.



Congressman Donald Payne

Anheuser-Busch supports NCSA



The Newark Community School of the Arts (NCSA) recently celebrated its silver anniversary with a "Jazz Cabaret," a fundraising concert supported by Anheuser-Busch Companies. Shown among the participants and supporters of the event (l-r) are: band leader Calvin Hughes; Beth Hughes, NCSA director of community affairs; Cynthia J. Moore, corporate affairs northeast region manager for Anheuser-Busch Companies; Richard Probert, NCSA executive director; and Brenda Rodd, president of NCSA Parents Association. NCSA provides high-quality, low-cost arts education and training for nearly 2,000 students. It is New Jersey's leading community-based school of the arts.

Celebrating Sisterhood: The 8th Annual Black Women's Conference

The rich tradition of the African-American family will be the focus of this year's "Black Women's History Conference," to be held May 1.

Organizers say a key objective of the Conference is to honor black women in American history—mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers—who have sewed the social fabric of Black family life.

Using social science and the topic of history to analyze contemporary issues and conditions affecting Black American families, organizers have invited a number of speakers to run workshops and stimulate a dialogue.

The all-day event, which will be held at Plainfield High School, will offer participants a chance to make

connections, renew old friendships and pursue the lively art of "sistering."

Pat Holmes, member of the Black Women's History Conference, is urging men and women to wear traditional African garb.

This year's format emphasizes audience interaction and participation. A main event will be a mixed-media presentation honoring the founders of the conference. The two women who actually founded the organization itself, Dr. Willa M. Coffield and Dr. Shirley C. Coker, will be the subject of an "Oral History" presentation by one of the hosts, Faye Robinson.

Organizers will focus on youth through two workshops. Dr. Annette Keamey, Plainfield school board mem-

ber will host a panel entitled "Educating African-American Children" while Patricia Harper will conduct a workshop called "Intergenerational Dialogue: Youth and Seniors and Conversation."

High school students from both Plainfield and New Brunswick will celebrate ORTA, a rights of passage ceremony, with a reception following. For more information, or to register for the conference, call 908-757-2816.

Republican Gubernatorial debate

MAHWAH—New Jersey Republican candidates for the office of governor, Cary Edwards, J. Patrick Gilligan and James Walkowiak, will kick off the first in what is expected to be a season of debates on Wednesday, April 28, at 8 p.m., at Ramapo College. This first battle on the issues may be without the presence of contender, Christine Todd Whitman, who has a prior commitment.

Marvin Scott, Emmy-award-winning Channel 11 (WPIX New York) television news anchor, will be moderator, and several members of the New Jersey media will act as panelists to question candidates.

The public is invited, on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, contact the office of Public Relations, 201-529-7602.

Coping

By Dr. Charles W. Faulkner

An innocent man gets arrested

I received a phone call from a gentleman who reads my column regularly and who told me the following story. These are his words:

"I was walking home from work one evening, a year ago, when I saw two people engaged in an argument, half a block away. A black teenager was shouting at a lady, who appeared to be Asian, and she was arguing back. I'm a black man, 35 years old.

"I did not like seeing this black teenager shouting at a lady, so I walked over and tried to calm him down. He was angry because the lady didn't want to give him change for a twenty dollar bill. I told him, in a nice way, to calm down. At this time, the lady's husband came outside. He was Asian.

"He walked real fast over to where his wife was arguing with the black teenager. I told him what was taking place. I told him that everything was now O.K. I told him that I had just told the black teenager to respect the lady, and everything was now alright.

"The lady's husband, then, got angry with me. I told him, courteously, that I was just an innocent bystander and that I was actually trying to help his wife. He started cursing both me and the black teenager. He said, 'All of you black people are no damn good. They ought to put all of you in jail.'

"At that time, a police car came by. The officer asked the Asian what was wrong. The officer didn't ask me what was wrong. He asked the Asian, The Asian told the policeman that the teenager and I were threatening his wife. I told the policeman that I was just an innocent bystander, who was just walking home from work. I told him that I had nothing to do with the problem. I was just trying to help.

"The policeman said: 'You're both under arrest! He put handcuffs on me and the black teenager. Another police car came by. We were put in it and taken to jail. I had never been in jail before, so I was more scared than I had ever been in my life. They strip-searched me. This was an invasion of my privacy. It was humiliating. I almost went crazy when they locked me in a cell. I suffer from claustrophobia. I stayed in the jail cell for 48 hours. While I was in the jail cell, a police inspector came by and questioned me about the incident. I told him the truth. He said that he believed me. I was released from jail after 48 hours and was told that no record would be kept of the incident. The lady and her husband refused to press charges.

"I had gotten a good job and was doing well, a year after the incident. One day, I got a letter in the mail from the State Prosecutor's office telling me to report there. When I went to the State Prosecutor's office, I was told that the prosecutor was charging me with disturbing the peace and with assault. I was completely stunned. The incident had taken place almost a year ago. I thought that it had been forgotten.

"I had to get a lawyer who charged me \$350, at the start. He said that he would charge me another fee every time we go to court. Plus I have to pay him for every hour that he spends on my case. If I am found guilty, I could spend time in jail and could lose my job.

"My greatest fear is that the Asian lady's husband will testify against me, even though he did not actually witness what had taken place before he arrived at the scene of the argument between his wife and the teenager. When he starts to testify, he may get angry all over again, just as he did a year ago.

"When this is over, whether I go to jail or not, I will never, never involve myself in anything that does not involve me. I will never, never help another person who is in trouble."

Benefit Concert for Tenants in Action

NEWARK—A Benefit Concert for Tenants in Action will be held on Saturday, April 24, at Essex County College, Room 2131, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Rev. Blouise Hunter, a resident of the HUD-subsidized Amity Village and member of the HUD Tenants' Coalition, came up with the idea for the Benefit Concert.

"I wanted to do something to help the tenants organizing work, which is so important for Newark residents. I know we need funds to continue this work, and I hope that this will become an annual event," said Rev. Hunter.

Hunter recruited talented local musicians to join her on stage on April 24. Performers include "The Voices of Greater Bedford Mass Choir, Quane of In Session Studio, Evangelist H. Goodson and Alice Faine.

Tickets for the concert are \$7.50 in advance and \$10 at the door. Children will be admitted for \$2.

The Concert is being sponsored by the HUD Tenants' Coalition, Newark Coalition for Neighborhoods, Ironbound Community Corporation and the Metropolitan Ecumenical Ministry.

Community Calendar

MONDAY, APRIL 20

PLAINFIELD—Swain Galleries will exhibit New Jersey artist Herbert S. Wyllie's collection. For more information call 908-756-1707.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

NEWARK—"How To Get The Most Of Employment and Training Agencies," a workshop, will be given at Main Library from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information call 201-733-4325.

JERSEY CITY—Spring Health Fair, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the multipurpose room of the Michael Gilligan Student Union building of Jersey City State College, located at 2039 Kennedy Boulevard. Free AIDS risk assessment, dentistry, and podiatry. Mothers Against Drunk Driving and others will be on hand for discussions. For information call 201-200-9456.

PLAINFIELD—Plainfield Public Library presents the Women's Sakere Ensemble to perform at 7 p.m. featuring part of the Langston Hughes Lecture Series in celebration of National Library Week.

PLAINFIELD—Plainfield Public Library will feature a Langston Hughes Lecture Series Presents: "Women's Sakere Ensemble" at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., located at 8th Street and Park Avenue. For more information call 908-757-1111.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

NEWARK—Newark Public Library will offer a Career Workshop "Interviewing Techniques," 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., located at 8 Washington Street. For information call 201-733-4325.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

PLAINFIELD—Plainfield Public Library will feature a Pre-School Storyhour with Jewish People at 11 a.m. Children ages 3 to 5 are invited. For more information call 908-757-1111.

PLAINFIELD—The City of Plainfield Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies Coalition will present an evening of information and dinner for the "Caretakers" (fosterparents, grandparents, aunts, sisters, etc.) at the Maxson Middle School Cafeteria at 6 p.m. Admission is \$5. Agencies are asked to sponsor at least ten caretakers for this event. For information call 908-753-3388.

PLAINFIELD—United Presbyterian Church will hold its Annual Church Sale from 12 to 6 p.m. at 525 E. Front Street. For information call 908-756-2666.

NEWARK—Newark Public Library will offer "How to Research Employment Opportunities Using The Library" from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For information call 201-733-4325.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

PLAINFIELD—Plainfield Public Library presents "Celebrate National Library Week" Storyteller Jim Cyr will present "Family Fun with Fairy Tales" for all ages at 11 a.m. For information call 908-757-1111.

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

PLAINFIELD—Plainfield Public Library will hold the Zora Neale Hurston Literary Society from 3 to 5 p.m.

PLAINFIELD—Plainfield High School's Jazz Ensemble "Colours," and local groups will perform "Music for a Sunday Afternoon." The performances will start at 4 p.m. at Plainfield High School Auditorium. For information call 908-753-3545.

TUESDAY, APRIL 27

PLAINFIELD—Plainfield Public Library will hold the FamilyNet Meeting from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Also, the LVA Basic Reading Tutor Training Workshop will meet from 6 to 9 p.m. For information call 908-757-1111.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

PLAINFIELD—Plainfield Senior Citizens Service Program will go to the Middletown Mall. For departure time call 908-753-3506.

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National News at a glance

By Robert N. Taylor

Student loan defaults could doom black colleges: A get-tough policy on students who do not repay college loans could force some predominantly black colleges to close their doors. According to a spokesman for the institutions, Samuel H. Hays, "it would be the death knell for many of our institutions." The policy, which was instituted in 1990, cuts schools off from federal student financial aid programs if more than 30 percent of former students fail to repay their loans. Myers estimated that over half the black colleges would be dropped from the financial aid program if the policy is enforced. The deadline for the black colleges is July 1, 1994. Black college presidents are trying to get Education Secretary Richard Riley to exempt them from the requirement. —WASHINGTON, DC

Author raises unanswered questions about King's death: A forthcoming book focusing on "unanswered questions" about the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., suggests that the FBI or some U.S. intelligence agency was involved in the death of the black civil rights leader. The book, "Death in a Cold War Land," is by former CIA officer Robert Andrews. Basically, Andrews raises a host of questions about King's alleged assassin, James Earl Ray. In 1969, Andrews how Ray was little more than a poor, petty criminal, with a history of incompetence prior to the King shooting; but following the assassination, he conducted himself as a "trained spy" who was able to "outwit the world's best law enforcement agencies." As a former intelligence agent himself, Andrews concludes that some of the things done by Ray after the assassination could have only been accomplished with the help of a spy agency. While drawing no firm conclusions, Andrews does repeat speculation by many within the civil rights movement that former FBI Director, J. Edgar Hoover, who had a history of anti-King activities, was in some way behind the 1968 assassination. The Andrews book is being published by Pocket Books.—NEW YORK, NY

Black Muslim Imam Yusuf Shah dies: A former top aide to slain black nationalist Malcolm X died recently at 65 in Mt. Vernon, N.Y. Imam Yusuf Shah was 65.—MT. VERNON, NY

Credit repair guide targets blacks: A new 20-page guide designed to show people how to repair negative credit ratings is being targeted at African Americans. James Nathan, the executive director of the group which compiled the guide, says, "We decided that something had to be done to combat this second-class financial citizenship which is being forced on blacks because of past credit problems. The guide details simple, legal steps which can be used to re-establish one's credit rating. It is available from the non-profit Letter Life Club, Post Office Box 28422, Washington, D.C. 20038. The guide is free, but include \$2.00 to cover postage and handling." —WASHINGTON, DC

Patterson victory may bring Jamaican progress: The recent landslide election victory by Prime Minister Percival Patterson is expected to bring a period of political stability, and possibly economic growth, to the often troubled Caribbean island nation of Jamaica. Patterson's ruling People's National Party won at least 42 of the 160 seats in the parliament. The election was tinged with race because Patterson is black and his opponent, Labor Party leader Edward Seaga, is white. An estimated 75 percent of the population is black. The election was marred by only relatively minor incidents of violence. In 1980, when Seaga defeated then-Prime Minister Michael Manley, over 800 people were killed in political violence. Patterson considered a protégé of Manley's, but he is not believed to be as socialist-oriented as Manley was during the 1970s. Seaga, meanwhile, had long been supported by conservatives in the U.S., including former President Reagan. The Patterson victory is viewed as representing an end to the Manley-Seaga era of ideological conflict. —KINGSTON, JAMAICA

Majority black districts nearly double: According to a U.S. Census Bureau report released recently, the number of predominantly black congressional districts nearly doubled over the past three years. The increase is a result of court-ordered redistricting based on the 1990 census. There are now 32 majority black districts, compared to only 17 before the 1990 census. There are also 20 majority-Hispanic districts, up from only nine prior to the census. Those newly drawn districts were the primary reason for the near doubling in the number of black elected to the U.S. Congress in last November's elections. —WASHINGTON, DC

No more junk mail please!

Mayor Sharpe James denounces Direct Marketing Association for disregarding Newark residents' requests

NEWARK—Newark Mayor Sharpe James recently denounced the Direct Marketing Association (DMA), a clearinghouse for junk mail lists, for not honoring repeated requests to have more than 300 names of Newark residents removed from unwanted mailing lists.

According to Pam Goldstein, the mayor's press secretary, Mayor James recently sent a letter to the President and Chief Executive Officer of the association, Jonai Giltz, to inform him of this dilemma and personally request his assistance. Giltz's lack of response prompted the mayor to involve the media.

"By not honoring our request, the association is telling us that our preference does not matter. Its refusal to remove the names means that both business and profits are of greater importance to them than their reputation and the satisfaction of their constituents," said Mayor James.

According to Greg Neverson, supervisor of the Office of Recycling, the scenario began this past winter when the Newark Office of Recycling inserted a business reply card in its

November/December 1992 environmental newsletter. One of the articles, focusing on source reduction, suggested that Newark residents can curtail the city's wastestream by eliminating unsolicited "junk mail."

Approximately 320 residents made an earth-conscious decision to return the prepaid postcards to the Office of Recycling. The office, in turn, sent the cards to the Mail Preference Service (MPS), a free consumer service that adds and deletes names from DMA's computer-kept files.

The spokesperson for DMA, Chester Dalzell, said he cannot locate the cards. In a letter dated March 12, Mr. Dalzell contended that DMA does not accept requests to remove names from third parties.

"By personally affixing a stamp to a personal letter or postcard, or a DMA supplied post card, the consumer has registered his or her personal choice to stem the flow of national advertising mail," Dalzell said. He continued by stating no government should advocate mass removal of names without an evaluation of its consequences on local business and

non-profit organizations.

This philosophy is absurd! Signing and filling out your postcards, regardless who supplies them, is choice. All we are trying to do is cut down on the amount of unwanted junk mail that Newark residents receive," James said. "The people who filled out a

card obviously do not want junk mail. They just throw it away, adding to the city's waste stream. Then it becomes our problem."

According to Keep Your Community Green by Stefan Bechtel, every household in America could save one and one-half trees each year by eliminating their junk mail.

The city's Office of Recycling has been doing a tremendous job in cutting down on the amount of consumer and business waste in Newark. Eliminating junk mail is part of their ongoing agenda to make Newark an environmentally responsible place to live and work.

Local organizations needed for Plainfield litter pick-up

PLAINFIELD—The City of Plainfield has scheduled its first Clean Communities public lands clean-up for Saturday, April 24 from 9 a.m. until noon.

Any charitable of public service organization in the area is invited to participate. Block associations, youth organizations and other civic groups are also invited to register. Grants will be awarded to organizations which register to commit its membership to this and future clean-up projects.

The grant awards will be in amount up to \$250. Organizations with memberships of at least ten

members are eligible to receive the full award. Awards will be granted to organizations to be used for any purpose deemed appropriate by the organization according to its own by-laws.

To register for the April 24 Clean-up, contact Charlene Smith, Clean Communities Representative, City of Plainfield Public Works Department, at 908-753-3461 during regular business hours. Messages may also be left on the machine at 908-753-3403.

Deadline for registration is April 22. Registration is ongoing for subsequent clean ups to be scheduled.

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EDITORIAL

Helping young people succeed

Last week, the Metronomes presented 15 young women in their annual debutante ball. As this program progressed, the young women and their escorts beckoned all back to an era of poise and grace when young people were groomed and expected to behave properly.

Unfortunately, the scene that the audience watched is rarely duplicated in everyday life. But the fault does not lie with the teens, it lays decades, on the shoulders of parents and other adults who, over the last two decades, have done little to direct these teens concerning those things necessary to negotiate life so it can be rewarding for them.

We have opted to lead two decades of youth feed on a steady diet TV, rap music with lyrics that could raise the hairs on any drunken pirate's head, movies that glorify the "bad" and basic skills education. We have allowed our best judgments to give way to a "liberalism" that robs all of us of our dignity and willingness to strive for quality living, quality education and other worthwhile goals.

Instead of adults guiding youth as they were raised, today, youth are supposed to tell adults what's right for them. Although it is important to listen to youth, it is far more important to guide them based on experience and wisdom. In our effort to adopt to their "needs" as generally articulated by the current social fad, we have given up on the tried and true methods which allowed many to become successful.

We have forgotten to tell them about respect for their elders, for authority and for themselves.

We have forgotten to tell them about the work ethic and being able to provide for themselves and their family.

We have forgotten to tell them about education and the doors it can open for those who have a strong foundation in reading and comprehension, writing, and math.

We have forgotten to tell them about their responsibility to support others and build others up.

We have forgotten to tell them about the struggles and accomplishments of their ancestors who persevered under much worse conditions.

There is hope in groups like the Metronomes and others who give of their time and money to continue giving young women positive direction and guidance. Many of the young women who participate in activities like this are a testimony to what can happen when adults take the responsibility for guiding and helping our young people to succeed.

Libraries change lives

CHICAGO—A homeless man reads books about journalism and becomes a successful freelance writer. A single mother, embarrassed by her illiteracy, learns how to read for her children and becomes a tutor for others. A ghetto youngster, called "dumb" by his peers, beats the odds and goes on to become a prominent surgeon. These might sound like far-fetched TV plots, but they're real-life stories, all set in the same place—the library. And they prove a very important point: young people during National Library Week, April 18-24: Libraries change lives.

Every day, in more than 116,000 public, school, academic and special libraries across the nation, millions of children and adults are acquiring knowledge that changes their lives. Teens are learning about the dangers of drug abuse and AIDS. Unemployed people are getting help finding new jobs. How to start new businesses. Students are learning information skills that will help them succeed later in life.

Of course, the library is just a great place just to check out a good story or to do homework, but the possibilities go beyond what most of us would imagine.

Benjamin Carson was the Detroit ghetto youngster called "dumb" by his peers. Although he was a slow learner in school, Carson's mother believed he could do better, so she insisted he check out two library books each week. Carson developed an interest in science-related topics, which led to a college scholarship. Today he is director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins University Hospital.

Diane Francis of Queens, New York, is the single mother who learned how to read through the adult literacy program at Queens Borough Public Library. Amy Brennan, formerly homeless and addicted to drugs,

is now a self-supporting freelance writer of a "graduate" of the Boston Public Library.

Libraries not only make a difference in the lives of individuals, they play an essential role in our society as a whole. America's libraries and libraries ensure one of our most precious freedoms in democratic society—the right of every person, regardless of ability to pay, to know the information he/she needs to live, learn, work and govern. Andrew Carnegie, the great library philanthropist, called libraries, "the university of the people," recognizing their role as one of society's great equalizers.

For all that libraries do for us, shouldn't we do something for them? The first and most important thing we can do for libraries is to use them and teach our children to use, appreciate and support this great public service. We can write to local, state and national decision-makers and urge that our libraries be funded adequately. Too many libraries—school and college as well as public—have been struggling with budgets cut during a depressed economy, forcing them to cut back on materials and services people count on.

As parents, we can make a point of visiting school and college libraries and demand that our children have the current learning resources they need to prepare for the 21st century.

Finally, we can volunteer our time and money. America's libraries are rooted in the principle of public support for a public good. But many libraries have memorial programs, endowments and other opportunities to help fill the gaps left by shrinking tax dollars. Ask your librarian what she needs are.

Most of us probably don't think much about how libraries change lives, but wouldn't our lives be different if we had to live without them?

CITY NEWS



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PINTON

As I See It...

Until this year those of us who take our voting rights seriously have suffered through downright dull primary election campaigns.

But the 1993 primaries that will be held on June 8 promise to be anything but dull due to the political battle of the Essex County Democrats.

Many old friends and former political allies will be each other's throats for the next month and a half.

There is no doubt that the Democratic fight for control and power will make this an interesting, involved primary campaign, but who needed to be stimulated to that extent?

As for standards now, candidates backed by Democratic Chairman Tom D'Alesio will compete for the nomination to run as the designated Democratic candidates in November, against a slate of State Senate, Assembly and Freholder candidates headed by veteran Senator Richard DiCody.

D'Alesio predicts victory noting "We win every time" and DiCody admits it will be a "tough race" but a winnable one. It's the first time since 1978 that a full ticket has been fielded against the Essex Democratic organization candidates and there is no doubt it will cause a rift in the party, leaving some wounded warriors when the smoke clears after primary election day.

We've already seen how keen and innovative the competition will be in the announcements of various candidates. Some announced from the steps of their city halls, others chose parks, becoming attendees was impossible. DiCody made his announcement at Mountainview Hospital in Montclair and senior citizen complexes figured prominently in the plans of those who wanted to make a perfectly clear they're on the side of the old folks.

One thing is for sure, D'Alesio and DiCody and their candidates know how to play political handball. Some of their choices are seeking election for the first time in their professional lives they've proven to have the stuff that make winners.

DiCody has been a suburban legislator for two decades and will be running without the regular Democratic organization endorsement for the first time ever.

His opponent will be Orange mayor Robert Brown, who was given the nod and a solid position on the Democratic line, a decided advantage in Essex County politics.

That means 11 of the candidates running with DiCody will be running "off the line." They include Freholder candidates, Deleores Battle, a former Freholder, Arthur Wright (replacing Leroy Jones), an Essex County educator, Jerome Leslie Eben, an Orange architect, Clare Lagermassini of Upper Montclair. They are candidates who will be running in the Districts they represent.

Code "sat" large candidates are Donald Page, an Orange councilman; Sheila Oliver, the former director of the Essex County Division of Community Affairs; Nancy Saville, West Orange attorney and Margaret Mukherjee, former Montclair deputy mayor.

D'Alesio is backing incumbent Freholder, Jeremy Jones of Newark in District 2; Jason Holt, deputy counsel to the Freholder board in District 3; Thomas Callahan, a West Orange Jeweler in Dist. 4 and Louise M. Palagano, a councilwoman in Bloomfield in Dist. 5.

His at-large candidates include Joe DiVincenzo, Jr. of Nutley, Freholder president; Sara Boss; Pat Schold of Livingston and James A. Cavanaugh of Livingston.

When he was told he would not get organizational support, Leroy Jones decided not to run for reelection to the freholder board, opting to become an Assembly candidate on the DiCody ticket. His running mate will be Nia H. Gill, a well known figure in local legal circles and advocate for a long list of not-for-profit social causes. They will be opposed by Assemblywoman Quella Talagorda of East Orange and Dolores (Bobby) Kelly, former Montclair councilwoman.

An unusual turn of events is the primary fight for the Newark Assembly seats currently

held by Willie Brown and Jackie Mattison. They will be challenged by Newark activists Bill Good, a former aide to Mayor Sharpe James and Ernest Davis a Democratic district leader.

Assemblyman Harry McInroe and Jimmy Zangari will also face primary opposition from Livingston, David Hammond and Alan Morton.

And now it's official, Mayor Cardell Cooper is seeking re-election without the blessing of the Democratic chairman and will be opposed by East Orange councilman Ralph Harris.

Harris is the organization candidate and will be running with incumbent councilman Stephen S. Thomas and Claude Craig. Other running mates are Bob Boyser, Sharon Fields and Carole Y. Clark, a former recreation director.

The Cooper council candidates are former councilwoman Beverly K. Williams, Corrina Kay-Williams, a former Essex County freholder, Jimmy Small, President, East Orange board of education, incumbent councilwoman Yvonne

Blake and Darrel Hartsfield, president of a mortgage investment banking firm in Hillside.

Just to make it really interesting and confusing, a couple of "independents" have thrown their hats in the ring. Charles Hutchinson, an East Orange police officer running in the 1st Ward and Ronald Horton, a Federal Express employee is running as the "Unbought and Unbossed" candidate in the 5th Ward.

A number of state legislators decided to quit this year and the latest to join that group is veteran Mercer County-Trenton Assemblyman John Watson who opted to retire than to run in the primary for State Senator. That would seem to clear the way for former Mercer State Senator Gerald Stockman to win the Democratic primary.

It must be true. Old politicians never die, they just wait for another chance to run again. At least that's what Newark's Anthony Imperiale is doing.

Before a crowd of some 400 senior

citizens he announced his bid for the Republican nomination for Essex County freholder-at-large.

But Big Tony will be running off the designated Republican line. He could pose a giant state headache for Republican chairman John Renna, but fun and games for those who like a little humor mixed with the serious business of getting elected to public office.

Imperiale made his announcement at Blake's Restaurant in Newark and standing at his side was the alleged front-runner in the Republican primary for governor, Christine Todd Whitman. Talk about politics making strange bedfellows. In this situation that may be the understatement of this weird political year.

With every vocal Mr. Imperiale in her corner, Whitman can continue to exude the image of nice lady while Tony throws the Republican backbones at Democratic Governor Florio, and you can say count on Tony Imperiale to be his bombastic best. It's been a long time since he's been able to speak with any authority within the body politic.

Reaction to the verdict

by John Jones

"The verdict in the Rodney King civil rights case is a partial reversal of last years outrageous decision. We still await the reversal. The partial reversal came as a concession to the rebellions. However, beneath the surface of the ruling, has been the escalating military-style mobilization of police and troops, a national 'urban warfare,' against people of color and all poor and working people."

As for two decades and will be running without the regular Democratic organization endorsement for the first time ever.

His opponent will be Orange mayor Robert Brown, who was given the nod and a solid position on the Democratic line, a decided advantage in Essex County politics.

That means 11 of the candidates running with DiCody will be running "off the line." They include Freholder candidates, Deleores Battle, a former Freholder, Arthur Wright (replacing Leroy Jones), an Essex County educator, Jerome Leslie Eben, an Orange architect, Clare Lagermassini of Upper Montclair. They are candidates who will be running in the Districts they represent.

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An unusual turn of events is the primary fight for the Newark Assembly seats currently

because of permanent restructuring of this economy.

"Black and Latino communities across the country are coming under siege by the police and military units. The racist justice system and the media fan the flames of racism and violence."

"It not Black people who are responsible for the violence. Do Black people look whole communities with tax abatements and then throw thousands out of work? Do poor people burn warehouses food to drive the prices up? Did poor people die to build Panama and Iraq killing men, women and children? The youth are projected as "thieves" while the real thieves, the S&L bankers, are being bailed out with hundreds of millions of tax dollars, and the bankers responsible for this crime go free."

"As the country plunges into recession-era poverty and corporations continue to restructure, millions of people are unemployed. There is little money for a job program but billions are spent to wage war at home and abroad."

"If the government is allowed to terrorize the country by a military mobilization, it will continue to use the same tactics when workers of all nationalities fight to keep their jobs at a 'factory, or fight for recreation, education and health care."

John Jones is chairperson of the New Jersey All Peoples Congress.

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YOUTH/EDUCATION/SUCCESS

Plainfield PAL Karate team wins big

PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield team that participated in the First Annual Dayton, Ohio PAL Region 8 Nationals Karate Tournament, left their mark in Ohio by securing 26 trophies, including a 5 foot grand champion trophy, out of 120 divisions.

The Police Community Activity League, a.k.a. Plainfield PAL, sponsored 17 competitors to participate in the competition. The team was cheered on by the airlines, which displayed supportive messages on electronic bulletin boards when the team departed and congratulated the team over loud speakers on the air-plane when they returned.

The tournament was held on Sat-

urday, March 13th at the Roosevelt Recreation Center in Dayton, Ohio. There were over 600 competitors attending the event from various states.

Plainfield students were invited to participate in the team fight competition against the PAL National Karate team, which is made up of the best students from various recreational centers in the Ohio area. Although the Plainfield team did not win, they were able to fight toe to toe with the National Team. They were able to show their potential and earn the respect of the Ohio team.

The Plainfield students gained valuable insight from their first tournament experience and were inspired to work harder and sharpen up their

team skills. All first place winners were eligible to compete for the five-foot grand champion trophy. Plainfield had seven eligible competitors.

In addition to the individual trophies won, all of the Plainfield participants were awarded medals and tee shirts for their overall performance.

In the weapons tournament, Chanta Hunter took first place, while Lucy Sanchez placed third and Fernando Sanchez placed third.

In the kata/forms category, first place winners were Chanta Hunter, Lucy Sanchez, Dee Eagle, Mickey Martinez, Ronnell Harrison, Loi Truong and Michael Gilliam, who was the instructor. Second place went to Stephen Jordan, Jr. and Fernando Sanchez. Victor Mangui took third place, and Reginald Lashley, Jr. placed fourth.

In the kumite/fighting competition, Lucy Sanchez, Juana Sanchez and Mickey Martinez took first place; Erica Gainer, Fernando Sanchez and



The Plainfield PAL Karate team

Michael Gilliam took second place; Jedy Martinez and Shaheed Muhammad took third place; and Stephen Jordan, Jr. and Loi Truong took fourth place.

Fernando Sanchez was the only student from Plainfield to win a trophy in the musical forms category.

He took second place.

Michael Gilliam, was successful in winning the Grand Prize. Michael also defeated the nationally recognized 1992 Martial Artist Of The Year, Terry Creamer.

The trip was unexpectedly extended by the Blizzard of '93, which

shut down Newark Airport, so the team's gracious host, officer Bruce Jones, provided entertainment and treated the team to pizza. The team was able to return home on Tuesday, March 16th. They were tired, but they were also happy and proud.

Scholarship deadlines

U.C.L.S.A. offers scholarship to law student: The Union County Legal Secretaries Association (U.C.L.S.A.) will award a \$500 scholarship to a student who is a resident of Union County and pursuing a career in the legal field. The award will be given to the college for the student's use. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of scholastic achievement and financial need. The Scholarship Committee shall review the applications and finalists will receive award certificates at the installation dinner of the new officers of the Association on May 18. To receive an application, contact either H.M. Mikelson, scholarship chairman, at 908-527-4416, or Judith C. Reed, president of U.C.L.S.A., at 908-527-4504. All applications must be postmarked no later than May 6.

Payne scholarship: Testing for the Lincoln Technical Institute Donald M. Payne Scholarship will be conducted next week on April 21, 22 and 24th. Applicants are reminded that they must be registered for one of these dates to compete for the Payne Award. The scholarship, valued at up to \$13,000, may be applied to any of four of the Lincoln Tech's programs in Automotive Technology, Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Technology, or Architectural or Mechanical Drafting with Computer Aided Design. Applicants must be 21 years of age or older, U.S. citizens, live full time in the 10th congressional district, be unemployed at the time of their interview with the selection committee, and will be required to take the Nelson Denny and PAR Aptitude Tests. Individuals interested in registering for one of the test dates may call Mr. Harrison at Lincoln Tech at (908) 964-7800.

Scholarship from Newark Metro BPW: Applications are now available for two \$750 scholarship awards presented by Newark Metropolitan Business and Professional Women, Inc. (Newark Metro BPW) to female high school seniors. Applicants must be a resident of Newark, the child of a resident of Newark or a student attending school in Newark. Applicants must have been accepted by a recognized college or university approved by one of the six region accrediting associations and exhibit academic achievement and financial need. In addition, applicants must present letters of recommendation from one of their teachers and a guidance counselor. Applications have been mailed to Newark high school principals and must be returned no later than April 30 to Newark Metro BPW, Inc., c/o Newark City Hall, 320 Broad Street, Room 209, Attn: Rhonda Kaslow Fischer, Newark, NJ 07102. Scholarship awards will be presented at Newark Metro BPW's June 22 meeting.



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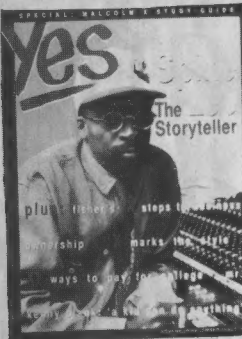
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CCM Conference celebrates black history and photo exhibit shows hope, outrage

RANDOLPH—Morris County may be best known for its Revolutionary history, but for many blacks who settled in the area after the war, it will be remembered as a place where roots were established, barriers were broken.

Historians and members of prominent black Morris County families will gather to recall this important piece of our county's past in a conference held from 8:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Friday, April 23 at County College of Morris. The day-long conference, "Chanceman's Community: The Twentieth Century Morris County African American Past," will be held in the Dragontetti Auditorium and will include a photographic exhibit.

Admission is free and open to the public. Registration is preferred. Call 201-328-5647 to register. Lunch is also available and requires a prepayment of \$8.

Key speakers and foremost authorities on black history in Morris County are Clement Price of Rutgers University and Giles Wright of the New Jersey Historical Commission. Wright will moderate a panel of guests including Bernice Able, one of the first black registered nurses at Morristown Memorial Hospital; Jesse Evans; Clara Watson Pinkman and

John Pinkman, caterers.

The conference will focus on black pioneers who transcended obstacles of racism and segregation to become the community's first black shopkeepers, policemen, nurses, housekeepers, nannies and taximen.

Also at County College of Morris, an exhibit of photographs by New Jersey photographer and County College of Morris professor Helen Stummer opened April 2 and runs through May 3 at the newly renovated art gallery in the Sherman H. Masten Learning Resource Center.

Entitled "No Easy Walk/Living On The Edge," the photos afford a revealing glimpse into a life that few outside the inner city know. Stummer has been photographing people and scenes in Newark's Central Ward for the past 12 years.

Stummer's interest in the lives of the poor began when she took a course in photography and was assigned to take pictures of something that interested her. Nothing in the suburbs where she lived fascinated her, but she did photograph some children.

Stummer's teacher then suggested that she go to the Children's Aid Society in Manhattan and practice taking pictures of children. Because the environment there was like

nothing she had ever seen, Stummer realized that she had discovered her chosen field.

Stummer's work provides a window into the lives of inner city residents, in an attempt to bridge perceptions between those who are poor and those who are more fortunate.

"Often it is difficult for people in the suburbs to believe the stories about people struggling in the inner city," said Stummer. "It is my hope that the kind of information my work provides may help us to change some of the common assumptions that contribute to this prolonged suffering."

Stummer, who frequently brings donations of clothes, food, furniture and appliances from the suburbs when she visits Newark, is outraged at some of the conditions under which the poor in the inner city are forced to live.

But she feels that there is hope. She has focused on one family, headed by a woman named Gerald, who has emerged as something of a community leader and role model, thanks to help from Stummer.

"Most of my work of the past eight years is a celebration of this woman," Stummer says. "She's gone through terrible times, and now she's helping others. In April, she's getting her high school diploma."



1920 photograph of James "Chance" Gregory, who was appointed the first black police officer in Morristown in 1934

The African-American Family, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

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(continued from page 1)

others to do the same.

In the weeks preceding his birthday, at our commemorations and programs, and in the months that follow, we should urge the formation of study groups organized around his speeches and writings. This should be encouraged among students and young people who want to know more about him. As we study his ideas, we shouldn't do it in the abstract, but with the goals of understanding the nature of our oppression and developing plans to change our condition.

Our study must also include an examination of the realities that face black people today. We must keep in mind that almost three decades have passed since his death. Many changes have occurred at home and abroad. His ideas must be examined within the context of these changes.

The observances can also be an opportunity to mobilize our communities. As we discuss his life and philosophy, we must try and relate these discussions to local, national and international issues concerning black people. We should use these programs to provide information about important meetings, demonstrations, educational campaigns, petitions drives, voter registration efforts and other relevant activities.

Events being held in his honor should be used to help organize our people. Participants should be urged to join some type of organization, whether it's one working to improve conditions in the community, one fighting for our rights, one engaged in self-help activities, or one challenging the status quo. Groups active in the community should be invited to distribute their literature, recruit new members, and, if possible, discuss their aims and objectives.

We have many organizations in the African-American community. The power of our community as a whole would be increased if there were greater communication, cooperation and coordination of their efforts. Whenever and wherever possible we should attempt to strengthen relations between them.

Coalitions to sponsor these celebrations could become vehicles for accomplishing this. But more importantly,

once they are established, their discussions should not be limited to the programs themselves but also focus upon how these conditions can continue working together afterwards.

Organizing black people for action, specifically, through the formation of the Organization of Afro-American Unity, became Malcolm's major task in the last days of his life.

He said, "This is what the purpose of the Organization of Afro-American Unity is: To have an action program that's for the good of the entire black community, and we are for the betterment of the community by any means necessary."

His assassination prevented him from finishing his work, but the task of organizing our people to actively participate in the struggle for freedom, justice, and equality still faces us today with even greater urgency.

During the era that he rose to prominence and the years immediately following his death, we made advances because Black people were on the move. Africans and other oppressed people abroad were engaged in anti-colonial and national liberation struggles. At home we pushed forward in the Civil Rights Movement and then the Black Power Movement. It was a time of intense action, and through those struggles progress was made.

With the decline of the movement, many feel that in terms of social progress, we have not just become stagnant but are actually moving backwards. If we are to begin moving forward again, it is imperative that we revitalize the movement and involve the masses of our people in it. And to lead that movement, we will have to construct powerful grassroots organizations whose goals are the total elimination of racism, poverty, inequality and all other forms of oppression, suffering and injustice that affect us today.

Upholding the legacy of Elijah Muhammad, the prophet of the Black Liberation Movement by developing the new ideas, goals, programs, organizations, strategies and tactics that our survival and progress in the twenty-first century will require. In his spirit, let us courageously face this challenge.

"Britney," 1992 Silver Gelatin Print by Helen Stummer



CITY LIFE



'Frontline' looks at L.A. one year after the riots

(continued from page 1)

trash City Hall," says Martinez. "It was clearly politically directed, but at a certain point, that direction was lost and the looting began."

Martinez talks with the Chicano community, probes the unrest from the perspective of the Central American immigrant community, and traces how Latinos' economic and social disenfranchisement mirrors that of blacks.

"The sense of despair, crime, drugs, gangs, police abuse — these are all there," says Martinez. While fifty-one percent of those arrested were Latino, about half the businesses destroyed were also Latino.

In South Central L.A.'s African-American community, John Edgar Wideman and Susan Anderson explore the despair, rage, and divisions.

The near-fatal beating of white truck driver Reginald Denny was another flashpoint during the riots. Anderson speaks with residents who are torn — although they felt the same rage about the King verdict, they don't condone the attack on Denny. Anderson also talks with families of the "L.A. 4," the men awaiting trial for Denny's beating. The families and others believe the charges don't fit the alleged crime.

"If the charge had been assault with a deadly weapon, aggravated assault, or any type of assault, I wouldn't have anything to say because the charges would have fit the crime," says Georgiana Williams, defending her son Darnell, one of the L.A. 4. "But with mayhem, aiding and abetting, attempted murder...there's no way I'm going to keep quiet."

Tim Rutten travels to the city's rich enclaves of Beverly Hills and Pacific Palisades detailing the growing isolation and defensiveness of Los Angeles's whites. Rutten, like many liberal and moderate L.A. whites, found himself defending his property with a gun.

Meeting with homeowners who barricaded their streets during the rampage, an attorney tells Rutten: "I think the seeds of the problem is there's a large criminal underclass in any large urban area, and they're deemed some kind of heroes when they're generally cold-blooded killers."

Many L.A. professionals and members of its film community say they understand the forces that caused the April unrest. But they are taking private gun classes and plan to buy guns.

"The riots came within three blocks of our house," says an accountant, "and all we had was two baseball bats and a sixteen pound puppy."

"Since [April 1992] every gun store in Los Angeles has done a land office business," says Rutten. "This is the one unambiguous communal response to last spring...this kind of private arms race."

In L.A.'s Korean-American community, Edward Chang explores how Koreans became the middlemen in the conflict between "haves" and "have-nots." They feel themselves much like victims as do Latinos and African-Americans.

"I thought, 'Why are these people doing this? These are possibly my employees!'" says one young Korean American. "I have some Hispanic employees, black Americans. Why...?"

"If you talk to most Korean immigrants, they are just shocked," says Chang. "They just cannot explain how this kind of thing can happen in America. They saw the total failure of American democracy and they cannot believe it."

Throughout their separate journeys into L.A.'s painfully divided communities, Martinez, Chang, Wideman, Anderson, and Rutten themselves reflect on the causes and meaning of the riots — disagreeing about which words accurately describe the event: riots, troubles, rebellion — and emphasizing with those who became part of it.

"Certain key words like rage and

anger and criminal are associated with the young people," says Wideman. "[But] if one really could spend two minutes talking to some of these young men, you'd find there is a framework...a mind not just informed by appetite — I want this, I want that — but a mind that has

become conscious of tremendous problems, tremendous frustration."

These five correspondents do agree that the media coverage was at best superficial, at worst, a fabrication, and reflected the very racial and class divide that led to the riots.

"There were instances of white

reporters using the pronoun 'they' or 'them' when referring to brown or black faces," says Martinez. "Terms like 'I don't understand why 'they' are doing this to their community.'"

They also agree that the riots were the first multiethnic civil unrest and signaled a deep dysfunction in

American society.

"Too many people are excluded...don't vote...exist at the periphery of our concerns," says Susan Anderson. "What happened last year was not chaos. It was politics by riot."

Finally, the five agree that a year

later, little has changed.

"We haven't moved an inch from where we were in April '92," says Martinez. "Communities are fragmented within themselves. Relationships between ethnic groups continue to be very, very tense. The polarization is almost complete."

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CITY BUSINESS

Health Chief releases report

(continued from page 1)

whites. African Americans and Latinos comprise 19 percent of the state's population, but account for 67 percent of its AIDS cases.

The rate of cardiovascular disease among minorities is twice that of whites and the prevalence of high blood pressure is three times higher. Minorities are more than twice as likely to be hospitalized for diabetes and have a higher rate of diabetes-related amputations than do whites. However, health data for various minority groups are inconsistent and incomplete. The report recommends that data reporting and collection methods be improved so that program planners can get a clearer picture of the health needs of minority populations.

Community-based random surveys of health care status and health service needs would also be useful. Two such surveys — one targeting Camden's African Americans and Latinos, and one focusing on the state's Filipino population — were funded through the grant program. Other strategies the report recommends include:

- Designing demonstration

projects to establish health enterprise zones in medically underserved minority communities, and identifying funding for those projects;

- Using loan redemption programs, increased financial assistance and recruitment, and improved career counseling and mentoring of young people to expand the pool of minority health care providers;
- Increasing bilingual and cross-cultural staff in health care facilities with 10 percent or more non-English speaking clients;

- Training community based providers in grant writing and administration;
- Improving communication and collaboration among minority organizations with the goal of developing a statewide minority health network.

Grants have been awarded to: Link, Inc., Atlantic City Chapter; Spanish Community Center in Lansville;

Engelwood Health Department; Burlington County Community Action Program Head Start;

Powhatan Rempse Nation in Ramothoc; Hispanic Family Center of

Southern New Jersey in Camden; Nanticoke Lenni Lenape Indians of New Jersey, Inc. in Bridgeton; Martin Luther King Academy Youth/Community Outreach in Vineland;

International Black Women's Congress in Newark;

The Hospital Center at Orange; El Comité De Apoyo A Los Trabajadores Agrícolas in Glassboro;

Hudson County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse; Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church in Trenton;

Philippine Nurses Assoc. of America and the Foundation of the Federation of Philippine Societies in South Plainfield;

Puerto Rican Association for Human Development in Perth Amboy;

Raritan Bay Medical Center in Perth Amboy; Center of Love, Inc. in Asbury Park;

Paterson Department of Human Resources, Division of Health; American Dietetics Association-North Central Region in Clark; and Plainfield Neighborhood Health Services Corporation.

On May 5, City News will present the "Candidates Issue." Candidates running for any governmental office during the 1993 elections are encouraged to forward photos, bios, campaign info, etc., to City News, P.O. Box 1774, Plainfield, NJ 07061.

Information must be received by April 27th in order to be included in this special edition.



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